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Wednesday, 01 Sha'ban 1428

There is no doubt whatsoever that this essay is going to provoke both positive and negative responses from

“Narrated Anas ibn Malik:

One day when the Messenger of Allah was sitting amongst us, he dozed off. He then raised his head, said: ‘In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.’ He said: A Surah has just been revealed to me, and then recited: ‘In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.’ (Sahih Muslim)

The implication of this Hadith is that those who change the religion that was left by Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)

Let us also recall another prophecy concerning the alarming extent to which Muslims would deviate from the religion of Allah (ﷻ)

*“Narrated Abdullah ibn Amr: Allah’s Messenger said: There will befall my Ummah exactly (all those) evils which befall the*

What should we do if we Muslims are to protect ourselves and our religion at that time of abandonment of the religion of Allah (ﷻ)

“Narrated Ali ibn Abi Talib: Al-Harith al-A’war: While passing through the Masjid I found the people engrossed in playing musical instruments. (Sunan Tirmidhi)

The Qur’an, in turn, has asked us to hold fast to the Sunnah (way) of the Prophet:

*“You have indeed in the Messenger of Allah an excellent model (of conduct) for any one whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day.”* (Qur’an, al-Ahzab, 33:21)

And so, it is with the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) that we are to judge the rights of women in Islam.

### A DANGEROUS MISTAKE FOR WHICH WE WILL PAY DEARLY

Prophet Muhammad warned his followers from allowing the Masjid/Mosque to become a place where women are excluded.

And yet, despite the clear orders of the Prophet concerning the rights of Muslim women in the house of Allah, the situation is far from ideal.

But the deprivation of Muslim women's rights is not limited to their exclusion from the House of Allah. Even in the home, women are often treated as second-class citizens.

But Prophet Muhammad very clearly placed men and women in the Masjid to pray 'in the same space' with the men.

Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet said: "The best row for the men (in the Masjid) is the first (row) and the best row for the women is the last (row)." (Sahih Muslim)

It is quite clear from the above Hadith that men are supposed to first fill the front row in the Masjid, and then the women.

"Narrated Asma' daughter of Abu Bakr: I heard the Messenger of Allah say: One of you who believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him guard his wife as himself." (Sunan Abu Daud)

The inescapable implication of both the above Ahadith is that women prayed in the Prophet's Masjid in the same space as the men.

The remedy for the present situation in which women are deprived of their rights, even in the house of Allah, is to ensure that women are treated as equals to men in all aspects of life.